

Board of Selectmen

Town of Upton



Massachusetts

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Kenneth E. Picard, Chairman

James A. Brochu

Robert J. Fleming

TOWN MANAGER

Blythe C. Robinson

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Memo To: Board of Selectmen
From: Blythe C. Robinson, Town Manager
Date: January 25, 2013
Re: Town Manager's Weekly Report

Warrants:

- Payroll: \$ 76,901.52
- Expense Warrant: \$1,208,265.74

For Your Information/Follow Up:

- Have you seen the new pictures on the banner of our website home page?? If you haven't, please take a look. Thanks to photographer Rich Gazoorian we now have some nice winter scenes of our buildings in Town. They look great – thank you Rich!!!
- The Governor has released his proposed FY 2104 budget. It contains good news for cities and Towns as unrestricted government aid would go up 3.4%, school funding under various programs would be level funded or increased, Library funding to remain unchanged, and a new "Annual Formula Local Aid" account would be set up. The flip side is that this budget depends on the tax increases also proposed by the Governor that need to be voted on by the legislature. So we'll keep our eye on that as we go through the budget process to Town Meeting.
- We are in the process of recruiting for both part-time (2 positions) and a full-time Communications Officer for the Police Department. The deadline has passed on the part-time and full-time applications are due by Tuesday the 29th so that the Personnel Board can consider them, determine which applicants are qualified so we can continue to the interview and selection process.
- The Town Hall Renovation Committee met twice this week. First was a meeting with the Board on Tuesday, followed by a ½ day meeting on Wednesday with the consultants. That was spent looking at the proposed lighting plan for the building, further discussions on interior colors, including various options for the Main Hall, and technology. With regard to lighting, we asked the architect to look further at LED lighting and calculate the cost/benefit analysis to upgrading to that anywhere those fluorescents had been proposed. We also asked him to try and find pendent light fixtures that were stock items rather than custom made. For the Main Hall we have asked for three options for painting from basic to adding back some of the stenciling. We'd like to see if we can arrive at a happy medium that brings back some of the beautiful work that existed there at a more reasonable cost.

Technology for the building took quite a lot of time. We need to make decisions on the type of phone system to go back in the building along with our laying out our IT facilities, the Cable TV studio and the camera installations in the Main Hall and upstairs meeting room, and the security of the building both in door locks and possible cameras. It is clear the architects are not experts in this area, so we will be bringing in a consultant to discuss those and pick a course of action in each area.

Finally, the Town Clerk, Police Chief and I met with the Upton School Committee members, Superintendent and Principal of Memorial School to discuss the prospect of moving there during the construction process. It was a good open conversation about the pros and cons of the plan in preparation for the meeting on January 28th. As a result I think we will be better prepared to give a presentation and answer questions.

- We had another hiccup with a 911 call this past week. Evidently the State had not finished reprogramming all three of their PSAP's that accept cell phone calls, and a call from Hopedale that should have been transferred to Upton went to Mendon instead. Chief Bradley was on top of it immediately, alerted the State, and then with staff performed test calls to make sure the problem was fixed. The State assures us that they have resolved this and we should be all set going forward.
- We learned this week that the Federal Surface Transportation Board has decided to hear the case by the seven Upton petitioners regarding the G&U Railroad. While they have agreed to hear it, they will not allow any discovery beyond what has been submitted by the petitioners and the railroad. I'm not aware of a hearing date at this point, but will let you know.
- On Friday and Saturday I will be attending the MMA Annual Meeting in Boston, Selectman Picard will be joining me Saturday. I'm looking forward to learning more about the Governor's budget, picking up some new tools and ideas at the trade show, and attending the various training sessions.